

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PM-05 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 /050 W

-----093650 170015Z /14

R 160557Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5541

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 2164

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, BM, US

SUBJECT: NEW BURMESE AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S.

1. AS A RESULT OF DIRECT CONTACT WITH HIM (COURTESY CALL ON AMBASSADOR BEAN ON JUNE 7 AND DINNER IN HIS HONOR ON JUNE 14 HOSTED BY AMBASSADOR), EMBASSY CAN NOW ADD SLIGHTLY TO THE INFORMATION PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED ON U HLA SHWE, THE NEW BURMESE AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S. U HLA SHWE APPEARS TO BE WARM, FRIENDLY AND RATHER TALKATIVE BUT NOT AGGRESSIVE NOR DOES HE APPEAR TO BE SOPHISTICATED.

2. DAW TIN TIN SEIN (MRS. U HLA SHWE) DOES NOT SPEAK ENGLISH AND GIVES THE IMPRESSION OF NOT ONLY BEING UNSOPHISTICATED BUT INEXPERIENCED IN CONTACT WITH FOREIGNERS. (SHE WAS VISIBLY ILL AT EASE AT THE DINNER TABLE APPARENTLY BECAUSE OF LACK OF KNOWLEDGE OF WESTERN FOOD, TABLE SETTINGS AND UTENSILS, HOWEVER, DURING THE PRE AND POST-DINNER CONVERSATION SHE PARTICIPATED WHEN THERE WAS SOMEONE AVAILABLE TO TRANSLATE FOR HER. EMBASSY SUSPECTS SHE WILL HAVE GREAT DIFFICULTY ADJUSTING TO LIFE IN WASHINGTON IN GENERAL AND THE DIPLOMATIC LIFE IN PARTICULAR.

3. U HLA SHWE CONFIRMED THAT THREE OF HIS FOUR CHILDREN WILL ACCOMPANY HIM TO WASHINGTON. HE SAYS THEIR ENGLISH LANGUAGE COMPETENCE IS RATHER LIMITED. NEVERTHELESS HE HOPES TO ENROLL THEM
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IN AMERICAN SCHOOLS (ONE IS AN EIGHTH STANDARD STUDENT, ONE IS SECOND YEAR UNIVERSITY AND THE THIRD IS BEGINNING UNIVERSITY).

4. DURING BOTH THE COURTESY CALL AND DINNER, U HLA SHWE TOLD AMBASSADOR BEAN THAT HIS GOVERNMENT FELT THAT U.S.-BURMESE RELATIONS HAD BECOME WARMER AND WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO.

5. U HLA SHWE AND FAMILY WILL ARRIVE WASHINGTON (DULLES) ON
FRIDAY, JUNE 23, FROM PARIS ON BOARD THE AIR FRANCE CONCORDE
FLIGHT.
BEAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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